

## PIEDMONT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting Minutes for Monday, September 17, 2018

A Regular Session of the Piedmont City Council was held September 17, 2018, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 120 Vista Avenue. In accordance with Government Code Section 54957(b), the agenda for this meeting was posted for public inspection on September 13, 2018.

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor McBain called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL** Present: Mayor Bob McBain, Vice Mayor Teddy Gray King, and Councilmembers Betsy Smegal Andersen, Jennifer Cavanaugh, and Tim Rood

Staff: City Administrator Paul Benoit, Assistant City Attorney Denise Bazzano, Recreation Director Sara Lillevand, Public Works Director Chester Nakahara, and Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk John Tulloch

**PUBLIC FORUM** Dimitri Magganas encouraged voters to be aware of the seats for election in November on the Peralta Community College District Board of Trustees.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS** Mayor McBain presented a proclamation declaring September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

**REGULAR AGENDA** The Council considered the following items of regular business:

**Presentation on Measure FF**

East Bay Regional Park District Ward 2 Director Dee Rosario gave a presentation on Measure FF, which will be on the November 6, 2018 ballot. He explained that Measure FF was an extension of Measure CC, an existing tax passed by voters in 2004. Measure FF, if passed, will extend the tax for an additional twenty years, providing continued support of infrastructure, including restoration and staffing in East Bay Regional Parks.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

The Council commended the East Bay Regional Park District on its long history of good work and Mr. Rosario for his representation of Piedmont on the district's board. The Council directed staff to agendize a resolution in support of the measure at its next meeting.

(0610)

**Appointment of Bret Black as Fire Chief**

City Administrator Paul Benoit summarized the recruitment process undertaken when Fire Chief Warren "Bud" McLaren announced his retirement. He indicated that the City had retained the executive recruitment firm of Peckham and McKenney to conduct the recruitment, which netted 27 applicants. From that pool, the recruiter narrowed the pool to twelve. Mr. Benoit indicated that he and the recruiter narrowed that pool to five applicants, each of whom was invited to participate in formal interviews by two panels and the City Administrator. Mr. Benoit indicated that these panels included community members and fire professionals. He thanked Mahvash Hassan, Jeffrey Horner, Lyman Shaffer, Lynne Wright, Don Bivins, Dave Rocha, and Elizabeth Warmerdam for sitting on the interview panels.

Mr. Benoit indicated that the interview panels recommended two finalists for interview by the City Council on August 16<sup>th</sup>. After those interviews, the Council unanimously selected Bret Black for the position of Fire Chief. Mr.

Benoit stated that a thorough background check had been completed and that he was pleased to recommend the Council appoint Bret Black as Fire Chief and approve a salary and benefit resolution for Mr. Black.

There was no **Public Testimony** on the matter.

The Council discussed the appointment process as well as written comments from residents. Councilmembers indicated their thanks to the interview panels and their pleasure at the appointment of Mr. Black as Fire Chief.

**Resolution No. 69-18**

RESOLVED, that the City Council appoints Bret Black as Fire Chief, effective October 1, 2018 and approves the employment resolution for Mr. Black.

Moved by Rood, Seconded by King

Ayes: Andersen, Cavanaugh, King, Rood, McBain

Noes: None

(0750)

**Recreation Department  
& Veterans Hall Master  
Plan Progress Report**

City Administrator Benoit provided an overview of the process which has led to the development of the Master Plan for the Recreation Department and Veterans' Hall which the Council is being updated on this evening. He stated that as a part of this process, the City was looking for ways to adapt facilities to the City's needs, rather than the previous practice of adapting programming to the facilities.

Mr. Benoit indicated that the consultant would present concept plans on the Recreation Department and Veterans' Hall and that staff was looking for Council's reaction to the concepts and guidance on how to move forward.

Recreation Director Sara Lillevand reiterated that the process was about finding possibilities within existing spaces and the focus of the study was how to make better use of inefficient square footage including creation of logical and functional office space and accessibility.

Larry Strain, Principal at Siegel and Strain Architects, gave a brief overview of his firm and the project. He introduced the project team, including Piedmont resident Roland Lazzarotto, who took the lead on this project and would be presenting the concept plan.

Roland Lazzarotto of Siegel and Strain summarized the process and focus on Veterans Hall and Recreation Department, including interviews with staff and members of the Recreation Commission, investigation of the buildings, documentation of program needs, creation of options as well as a cost estimate.

Based upon his examination of the facilities, Mr. Lazzarotto made the following suggestions for the Recreation Department: Consolidate all preschools into one facility with better security and a dedicated play area, create functional access for those with disabilities to Recreation Department offices, and the creation of more modern and functional office space for Recreation Department employees.

Mr. Lazzarotto presented two options for the Recreation Department building. The first adds a wing to include stacked bathrooms, an elevator, stairs and main entrance. The second works within the footprint of the existing building, with the exception of an added elevator. Both options would upgrade access and

provide new legal exit stairs and an elevator as well as convert the attic into a functional floor.

With regard to the Veterans' Hall, Mr. Lazzarotto made the following suggestions: Remove the stage to add three multi-purpose rooms, update restroom facilities to meet modern standards, and upgrade the kitchen for more functional use. He indicated the upgrades would increase the building's use efficiency from 65.5% to 87%.

In response to Council questions, Mr. Strain explained the goal for a net zero project with energy efficiency upgrades and reusing existing buildings, which would create carbon savings over building new buildings. He discussed cost savings with using the existing buildings rather than tearing down and building new.

City Administrator Benoit stated the City was reviewing seismic sustainability for all facilities and there were no fatal flaws in any of the buildings but they needed care.

**Public Testimony** was received from:

Mia Howath asked how the proposed construction would affect the public in regard to services and functions. Mayor McBain stated a plan and schedule would be developed and communicated to the public.

The Council thanked Messrs. Lazzarotto and Strain for their presentation. Council also thanked staff for its work on the project.

Councilmembers expressed support for the concept, asking questions about the demand for weddings at the Veterans' Hall, whether the Police Department would be a part of the plan, whether additional parking was a part of the plan, and encouraged public involvement in the selection of Recreation Department programming. Councilmembers also indicated support for the flexibility of use in this plan and the City's desire to fit its facilities to programming, rather than the opposite.

The Council also discussed the estimated cost of the proposed plan, which is estimated at between \$6.7 and \$7.5 million dollars. Councilmembers noted that there is no funding for this master plan, and the plans are conceptual. Mr. Benoit noted that the City is also engaged in master planning projects for Linda Park and Coaches Field, which would be presented to the Council in the next few months. He also noted that the team from Siegel and Strain had been outstanding to work with.

(0260-0845, 0260-1090)

## **REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Rood announced the upcoming Future of Your Energy Bill hosted by Stop Waste and the City of Oakland at the Rockridge Library from 2-3 p.m., on September 22, 2018 and in Fremont on September 30.

Councilmember Andersen indicated that she and Councilmember Cavanaugh attended the Hazard Mitigation Planning meeting on September 6 and encouraged public involvement in this process.

Councilmember Cavanaugh commended the Piedmont Police Department for the Coffee, Cops, and Cars event, held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She announced school

events including the Chalk Art Festival and High School homecoming. She announced the Healthy Relationships Program and meetings of the Recreation Commission Tennis & Pickleball Subcommittee. She encouraged residents to participate in Pickleball as well as the upcoming Dog Walker Watch program offered by the Police Department.

Vice Mayor King announced her work with the Alameda County Transportation Commission and encouraged voters to research measures which will appear on the November 6, General Election Ballot.

Mayor McBain thanked the Park Commission and Recreation Commission and members of the public for participating in their recent joint meeting to discuss the Linda Park Master Plan, as well as an upcoming meeting on the same topic on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Council announced Harvest Festival weekend, commencing on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> with a Movie in the Park, continuing with the inaugural Fall Fest Challenge on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, and the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Council also encouraged residents to apply for the vacancy on the Recreation Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor McBain adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.